

I CLAIM:

1. A spare tire transport apparatus for semi-tractors wherein, the transport apparatus comprises
 - a base unit including a base plate member having a receptacle element and an aperture
 - a vertical support unit including a vertical support rod member having a lower end and having an upper end provided with a generally L-shaped support arm element
 - a tire capture unit including a generally inverted L-shaped tire capture member movably associated with the vertical support rod member and having a horizontal segment and having a vertical segment that is dimensioned to be slidably received in said aperture in the base plate member; and,
 - means for captively engaging the lower end of the vertical segment of the tire capture member beneath the base plate member.
2. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, the lower end of the vertical support rod member is adapted to be rotatably received in the receptacle element of the base plate member.
3. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, the support arm element has a vertical segment and a horizontal segment provided with a downwardly depending hook element which is dimensioned to releasably receive the horizontal segment of the tire capture member.
4. The apparatus as in claim 2; wherein, the support arm element has a vertical segment and a horizontal segment provided with a downwardly depending hook element which is dimensioned to releasably receive the horizontal segment of the tire capture member.
5. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, the vertical segment of the tire capture member has a lower end that is provided with an aperture.

6. The apparatus as in claim 2; wherein, the vertical segment of the tire capture member has a lower end that is provided with an aperture.
7. The apparatus as in claim 3; wherein, the vertical segment of the tire capture member has a lower end that is provided with an aperture.
8. The apparatus as in claim 4; wherein, the vertical segment of the tire capture member has a lower end that is provided with an aperture.
9. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, the horizontal segment of the tire capture arm is provided with a collar element that is adapted to be slidably received on the vertical support rod member.
10. The apparatus as in claim 5; wherein, the means for captively engaging the lower end of the vertical segment of the tire capture element comprises a lock element having a harp that is dimensioned to pass through the aperture in the lower end of the vertical segment of the tire capture member.
11. The apparatus as in claim 1; wherein, said base plate member is further provided with a pair of upwardly projecting spaced flanges that are adapted to frictionally engage spaced portions of a spare tire.